MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JANUARY 1982

Israel

Reagan Message -- Jerusalem radio reported that U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis delivered a "very friendly" message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin from President Ronald Reagan emphasizing the "inalienable commitment" to Israel's security and stating that U.S.-Israeli differences are a "past event." IDF radio interpreted the message as a U.S. attempt to pave the way to progress in the autonomy talks.

Yamit Compensation -- According to the Jerusalem POST, the Yamit action committee resigned after rejecting the government's offer of increased compensation for settlers who must evacuate the Sinai by April. The paper said that during a general meeting of Yamit residents, committee members threatened to publicize their talks with government representatives, thus causing a political storm. It went on to cite Deputy Prime Minister Simha Erhlich as stating that the Sinai settlers would not get "a penny" more.

U.S. Contacts With PLO, Syria

The United States has held "direct official" contacts with Syria and the PLO over the last few days, during which it stressed that they should avoid any military move that might give Israel an excuse to postpone withdrawal from the Sinai, the Israeli paper HA'ARETZ reported. Citing Arab sources, the paper added that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was told that the United States will make no further moves against Israel at the UN Security Council. According to the sources, the Soviet Union has made it clear to Syria that any Syrian military move against Israel would embarrass Moscow and contravene the Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation agreement.

Autonomy Talks

In remarks reported by the Jerusalem POST, an Israeli autonomy negotiator opined that Secretary of State Alexander Haig's Middle East mission will be "hopeless" unless he can move the Egyptians on the key issues of Jerusalem, the nature of the self-governing authority, security and settlements. Asserting that the Jerusalem issue is not negotiable for Israel, he said Haig will make a grave mistake if he tries to press Israel on the issue. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg said in an interview with Jerusalem radio that Israel's autonomy proposals would give the Palestinians in the occupied territories "80 or 90 percent" self-government.

Cairo radio reported that an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source said Egypt firmly maintains its position that east Jerusalem is part of the West Bank and that east Jerusalem Arabs should participate in elections to the autonomy authority. Reporting Egyptian preparations for Haig's visit, MENA noted that Egyptian negotiators will tell him that Israel should undertake confidence-building measures in the West Bank and Gaza. MENA also said Egypt will emphasize that it is "not important" to set a date in the near future for an atuonomy that is unacceptable to the Palestinians. Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will deliver an important statement on the peace process and the autonomy talks when he receives Haig at Cairo airport, the report added.

Golan Heights

SANA reported that in a 12 January editorial the Syrian newspaper AL-BA'TH warned that U.S. pressures on the UN Security Council to foil the draft resolution on sanctions against Israel are being exploited by the Israelis to prepare for a "new aggression" against Syria and Lebanon. If the Security Council fails to impose sanctions on Israel, AL-BA'TH continued, Syria has the right to defend itself against any attack in accordance with the UN Charter. Meanwhile, SPA reported that in a speech to the UN Security Council Saudi Arabia's permanent UN representative called on the council to impose harsh sanctions upon Israel to make it rescind its decision to "annex" the Golan Heights and to deter it from carrying out further "expansionist" acts.

Lebanon

Klibi Press Conference -- In a press conference carried by Beirut radio, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi announced at the conclusion of talks with Lebanese leaders that the minicommittee approved by the Fes summit to draw up a strategy concerning Lebanon will be formed from a number of Arab states close to Lebanon and particularly concerned with events there. The minicommittee will be headed by the Arab League secretary general and will hold meetings in Tunis at the beginning of February.

According to Voice of Lebanon Radio, when asked about the UN Security Council debate on the Golan Heights, Klibi stated that the Arab states will adopt "decisions consistent with the situation," if the United States vetoes sanctions on Israel. According to AFP, Klibi also said that it is illogical for the United States to call for sanctions against Poland yet oppose sanctions against Israel, and that the U.S. attitude does not encourage Arab-American friendship.

New Security Measures -- Beirut radio reported that after chairing an internal security council meeting Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan announced that he had asked for "full coordination" between the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) and the internal security forces. He described the first of these coordination measures as the division of Beirut into a number of areas with a specific officer to assume responsibility for each area and joint patrols to operate wherever necessary. Al-Wazzan also announced that the council adopted a recommendation to "significantly" increase the internal security forces.

Citing "news sources," Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the ADF reinforced their numbers in west Beirut with a battalion of special units from the Al-Biqa' area estimated at 400 officers and soldiers. The radio noted that the reinforcements came after a visit to Syria by Amal movement leader Nabih Bibri

Saudi Arabia

SPA reported that a court official said Saudi Arabia has recently noticed that some Arab and international newspapers have misinterpreted its views on the recognition of Israel. Asserting that Saudi Arabia rejects any unofficial reportage aimed at distorting or misinterpreting its policy, the official added that the kingdom does not accept "any inference that the Palestinians should negotiate with Israel or recognize it." No individual or group is entitled to speak in the name of the Palestinians, he went on, since these "issues of destiny" are decided by the Arab nation.

Syria

According to Doha radio, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam delivered a message in Doha from Syrian President al-Asad to Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. The radio described the message as dealing with the current situations in the Arab and international arenas in addition to a number of issues of common interest. WAKH reported that Khaddam later arrived in Abu Dhabi where he delivered another message from Al-Asad to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. Damascus radio reported Khaddam's return from Abu Dhabi to the Syrian capital thus concluding his 2-day tour of six Arab countries.

PLO

In an interview published in the UAE paper AL-KHALIJ, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the recent PLO Central Council meeting in Damascus restored unity among Palestinian factions after a rift had been created owing to differences over Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's Middle East peace plan. Khalaf stated that this is not the time for settlements and that Arabs should not propose initiatives because they are not strong enough to "impose a real balance."

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NEW LOCAL ORGAN, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW PASSED

LD112238 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] With the victory of the April Revolution in the country, besides the socioeconomic and political changes, a series of measures have been taken concerning the changing of the government administration apparatus in order to democratize social life and the government apparatus and bring about a healthy, democratic administration at the service of the people, and other national-democratic goals in the interest of the people, which are the basic aims of the DRA.

In accordance with this humane, national and democratic principle a series of positive and beneficial improvements have occurred in the government departments and, in particular, in the country's judicial organs. The law of criminal investigation and the legality of its realization by the prosecutor's office were approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council and were implemented. The enforcement of this law prepares the ground for the consolidation and enforcement of democratic laws, the strengthening of the revolution's legality and the prevention and elimination of crime.

In order to enforce the law justly on those to be punished for crimes, and so that no innocent people come under judicial surveillance, a time limit has been set for the prosecutor's offices in implementing laws and thus positive and broad steps have been taken in safeguarding the values of the April Revolution and its new development stage and in maintaining justice.

The DRA has entrusted the people themselves with the solution of problems related to them from the village level to the level of subdistricts, districts, cities and provinces, free from racial, national, religious, tribal and linguistic prejudices. As is stated in the DRA Basic Principles, Chapter VI, Article (?51), under the title of the DRA State Law on Local Organs and Administration: Local councils and local jirgas will be formed in the provinces, cities, districts, subdistricts and villages to solve all local issues. The method of the democratic election of the people's representatives in the local jirgas and councils, and issues related to their organization, responsibility and activity are to be directed by law.

This democratic and national principle not only counts as one of the more basic democratic principles but is in accord with the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam. It is according to this accepted democratic and progressive principle that the DRA Government drafted the DRA State Law on Local Organs and Administration with 10 chapters and 87 articles and submitted it to the Revolutionary Council. The draft of the DRA State Law on Local Organs and Administration, which has been brought to the information of our compatriots throughout the country for analysis and advice, is indicative of the fact that the DRA seeks to pursue its policies and measures for the prosperity of the county in light of the views, opinions, proposals, criticism and intentions of the people.

This act of the government is a great manifestation of democracy and freedom of action and speech. This is another important and beneficial step toward the consolidation of the people's power in the homeland and on maintaining the broad participation of people in the homeland and on maintaining the broad participation of people in the construction of a new, just society in the country. Fortunately, this measure by the revolutionary government has been warmly welcomed by the broad masses of the people, workers, religious leaders, elders, poets, writers, intellectuals, scientists, artisans, students, pupils, teachers and civil servants. This has been shown by various meeting held in the country supporting the law and announcing their support. There is no doubt that, after the expression of views, beliefs, proposals and healthy, constructive and patriotic criticism and its approval [words indistinct], the DRA State Law on Local Organs and Administration will come to pass for the first time in the country's history. The law will contain the true and humane hopes of the persecuted and oppressed people of our country.

AFP: PAKISTANI DEFECTOR FLOWN TO KABUL

BK091029 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] New Delhi, 9 Jan (AFP) -- A man who claimed to be a major in the Pakistani Army and sought political asylum in the Afghan Embassy here late last month has been flown to Kabul, an Afghan dissident source said here today.

The man, identified as Major Ejazuddin, apparently went straight to the Afghan Embassy after crossing the Indian border in Kashmir in the last week of December.

Major Ejazuddin, accompanied by Afghan Embassy First Secretary Hasmat Aurang, a former senior official in the Afghan secret police, was flown to Kabul from Delhi's Palam Airport on Monday [4 January], the source said.

A Pakistani Embassy spokesman today denied any knowledge of a defection, saying: "We have checked with our government in Islamabad and no army officer with this name has defected."

The spokesman said Pakistan was unable to confirm whether the man was a Pakistani national.

Earlier reports had identified the defector as a member of the Pakistani mission here, but the mission denied this.

The Afghan Embassy meanwhile refused to comment. Both the ambassador and the first secretary were said to have gone to Kabul.

Initially, Afghan Ambassador Hasan Sharq had reportedly planned to hand the major over to Indian authorities because he doubted his identity, but Mr Aurang was said to have prevailed on the ambassador to accept the man.

PAKISTANI PAPER ON AFGHAN MUJADIHIN ACTIVITY

GF081840 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Jan 82 p 1

[Excerpt] London, 3 Jan (AAP) -- Afghan mujahidin have captured the chairman of the ulema organization appointed by the Karmal administration in Mazar-e Sharif. The ulema were attending a conference in Mazar-e Sharif that was being held under the auspices of the organization for the preservation of traditional Islamic values. Several members of the Khalq and Parcham factions attended the conference and grew beards to emulate mullahs.

Karmal's troops were guarding the city during the 2-day conference to prevent mujahidin from attacking the mullahs. During the conference, the participants shouted slogans supporting the Soviets and government leaders, while armed Parcham faction members and Soviet troops stood around them. In a resolution issued at the end of the conference, mujahidin were declared to be rebels and the Soviet aggression was declared to be justified.

(Solayman), a Parcham faction member, was appointed chairman of the organization for the preservation of traditional Islamic values. Shortly after the conference was over, mujahidin led by Commander (Zabihollah) attacked (Solayman's) house in the city of Mazar-e Sharif and captured him. He is currently on trial before an Islamic court set up by the mujahidin.

BRIEFS

CZECHOSLOVAK AID -- Czechoslovakia has given 75 tons of dry milk to Afghanistan as grant-in-aid. The documents for this assistance were presented yesterday to Fazil Rahim Momand at the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform by the Czechoslovak charge d'affaires in Kabul, and they were accepted with thanks and appreciation. [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 10 Jan 82 LD]

PAKISTAN ACCEPTS INDIAN 'POINTS' ON NO-WAR PACT

BK120750 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Pakistan has conveyed to India her acceptance of several points suggested by India on a no-war pact between the two countries. A communication to this effect from the Pakistan Government was delivered to External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao by Pakistan Ambassador Abdul Sattar in New Delhi this morning. Sattar returned to New Delhi from Islamabad yesterday.

During his brief meeting with Narasimha Rao, Sattar said that some other points needed discussions between the two countries. They also discussed the date for the visit of Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, which is likely to take place toward the end of this month.

GANDHI DENIES TILT TOWARD SOVIET UNION

BK071301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Jan 82

[Text] The prime minister has said that India has never deviated from the policy of nonalignment which is found to be the best for the country. She was speaking to the probationers of the Indian foreign service in New Delhi today. She said nonalignment suits us because India has never been moved by temporary gains. In a democratic setup there are bound to be problems. Despite differences of opinion we must ensure that whenever we speak on behalf of the country national interest is foremost in our mind.

"rs Gandhi strongly denied allegations by some people that the country is tilting toward the Soviet Union. She said in many crucial areas India first approached the United States for help, but in times of our needs the Western countries stood apart. In various world forums the Soviet Union has stood by the developing countries and the Group of 77. In our needs the Soviet Union has always helped us and its terms of trade are also quite favorable to us, she said.

TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE WITH ALGERIA TO INCREASE

BK090449 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] India and Algeria have decided to enlarge exchange of technology, experience and expertise appropriate to each other's development and needs. Besides, the preparatory meeting of the Indo-Algerian joint commission at the level of officials concluded their deliberations in New Delhi yesterday. They reviewed the existing agreements in trade, scientific and technological cooperation and culture. The three committees set up by the joint commission reviewed bilateral trade, ongoing projects, new projects and collaboration in industrial and consultancy services.

AFP ON INDIAN OIL PURCHASES, DRILLING PROGRAM

BK111036 Hong Kong AFP in English 0927 GMT 10 Jan 82

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Jan (AFP) -- India has almost finalized arrangements for all its crude oil imports for this year.

An official spokesman said today agreements for supplies signed or finalised include 3.5 million metric tons from Iraq, 3.3 million metric tons from Iran, 2.65 million metric tons from Saudi Arabia, 2.5 million metric tons from the Soviet Union, 1 million metric tons from the United Arab Emirates and 0.5 million metric tons each from Nigeria and Venezuela.

Oil imports this year are expected to total 14.5 million metric tons -- about 2 million metric tons less than in 1981, the spokesman said.

This will be the second successive year India will be getting crude from Latin America. Last year, contracts were signed for the supply of 0.5 million metric tons of oil from Venezuela and 1 million metric tons from Mexico.

Smaller oil imports this year have been made possible by the fact that domestic production has dramatically risen from 9.3 million metric tons from onshore and offshore fields in 1980 to an estimated 14.56 million metric tons as of year-end 1981, marking a 55 percent increase during the year.

The financial year 1981-82 (March-April) is expected to close with a production of 16 million metric tons as against 10.5 million metric tons in 1980-81.

Even as production at the Bombay High offshore field touched the 11 million metric-ton mark on January 4, an agreement was concluded by the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC] with the Transworld oil company of the United States in Paris last week to swap 1 million metric tons of Bombay High crude with Arabian light crude.

The IOC has also floated a global tender for swapping another 200,000 metric tons of Bombay High crude. The last day for receiving bids is January 20.

The spokesman said the Oil and Natural Gas Commission [ONGC] was already working on a production system for Palk Straits, where an oil strike 4 months ago gave a promising yield of 1,500 barrels a day.

Drilling of a second well, off Vedaranyyam, a town known for its salt pans, has been more or less completed and experts are evaluating the data.

An evaluation of the second well in B-57, a new oil field east of Bombay High, is also underway. The first well yielded an oil flow of 1,030 barrels a day.

The spokesman said greater thrust was now being given by the ONGC and Oil India to onshore areas.

Both the ONGC and Oil India will take up drilling in Rajasthan. The ONGC proposes to take up the first well for drilling in February with a planned depth of up to 2,500 metres (8,125 feet).

Jwalamukhi, the Gandak depression, Jammu, Tripura, west Bengal are some of the areas where exploration work had already started or will begin. Exploration in the Godavari offshore basin is also expected to be resumed any time now with the arrival of a sophisticated drillship.

CONGRESS-I WORKING COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING

BK081614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Text] The Congress-I working committee met in New Delhi today after more than 1 year and discussed for over 7 hours the political and economic situation in the country. The meeting, held at the prime minister's residence, remained inconclusive and will continue tomorrow. Twelve Congress-I chief ministers, four presidents of the Pradesh [state] Congress committees and four Union ministers took part in today's deliberations. The speakers stressed the need to implement vigorously the 20-point program and suggested setting up of special cells to monitor the implementation of the program in different states.

The chief ministers explained the situation in their respective states both in regard to the political and economic atmosphere. The chief ministers who took part were from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Manipur, Bihar and Orissa.

External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao explained the international situation. Finance Minister R. Venkataraman outlined the economic situation and Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh highlighted the achievements in the agricultural front. Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee detailed the balance-of-payment situation and India's efforts to expand its trade.

The chief ministers generally emphasized the need to strengthen the Home Guards organization to help in communal and other civil disturbances. They also stressed the need to strengthen the sevadal [volunteer groups] of the party on the lines of the Kerala unit.

The centenary celebrations of the Congress Party in 1985 also figured in the discussion.

Mrs Gandhi explained the political situation in her preliminary observation.

CURFEW IMPOSED IN AHMEDABAD CITY AREAS

BK110305 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] Indefinite curfew has been imposed in certain areas of Ahmedabad city following clashes between two groups of people last night. The All-India Radio Ahmedabad correspondent, quoting city police, reports that police opened fire to disperse the mobs which were throwing stones to each other. Nobody was injured in the firing. However, at least eight persons were injured in the stone throwing. Meanwhile, police parties have intensified patrolling in the affected areas. The situation is reported to be under control.

SIKH LEADER DECRIES DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SIKHS

BK091445 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 82 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 4 -- Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale today urged the government to take a lenient view of the five Dal Khalsa members who had hijacked an Indian airlines plane to Lahore "merely to register their protest against discrimination against the Sikhs," reports UNITED NEWS OF INDIA.

In an interview, Sant Bhindranwale pointed out how two Congress (I) workers who had hijacked a plane during the Janata regime were later rewarded by the Congress (I) with legislative positions instead of being punished.

If the government applied a different yardstick in the case of these Sikh young men, who had harmed neither the passengers nor the plane, it would be interpreted as discrimination against the Sikhs.

Asked whether he had any specific example of discrimination against the Sikhs by the centre, Sant Bhindranwale said that General Jagjit Singh Aurora, who had brought about India's victory in the Bangladesh war, was given lesser importance than General S. H. F. J. Manekshaw who only issued directions from Delhi and was not on the battlefront.

He also alleged that the former Delhi police commissioner, Mr P. S. Bhinder, had been transferred "unceremoniously" when there was no charge of incompetence against him. This, too, was a case of discrimination against the Sikhs, he said.

He also alleged that when Sikhs were killed in Mehta Chowk, in Madhubani or in Delhi, no judicial inquiries were ordered. But whenever Hindus became victims, such inquiries were immediately instituted.

The sant said that the Punjab finance minister, Mr Kewal Kishan, had openly declared that he would destroy Sikh solidarity, but he had not been pulled up for this "offensive" remark against the Sikhs. He said that no Sikh leader had spoken so recklessly against the Hindus.

Asked why he did not ask the Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, to take action, the sant replied that Mr Darbara Singh was too weak. Further, he had to be guided by the central leaders who put him in power. He had nothing personally against Mr Darbara Singh, but said he should be replaced by someone who was capable of protecting the Sikh interests.

The sant today met the Delhi Akali Dal (L) president, Jathedar Harcharan Singh, in a bid to resolve the differences among Akalis over the leadership of the Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak (Sikh temple management] Committee.

MIZO GROUP DEMANDS CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARD

BK100240 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 5 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Jan. 4 -- It was learnt today that a solution to the Mizoram problem was possible only if the centre could provide assurances on constitutional safeguards for autonomy to the Mizo people. This was the pre-condition to a settlement, a Mizo National Front [MNF] spokesman said, the other conditions being secondary to this. Mr Laldenga had a meeting with Mrs Gandhi on January 1.

The spokesman said the MNF had been observing faithfully the rules of the cease-fire in Mizoram between the centre and MNF men. He said his organization had refused to be provoked by the "military action" taken against it recently by the Sailo government.

Referring to a report published in a newspaper recently, the spokesman said it was very unfortunate that the government had chosen to make a statement like this which would seriously hamper the negotiations. The report had said that the centre had decided to take action against MNF men in spite of the talks being held with the front's leadership in Delhi. The government had said that the action was necessary since there had been attacks on security men.

The spokesman said the centre had agreed to dissolve the Mizoram Legislative Assembly once a settlement with the MNF leadership was reached. But all this was secondary, the spokesman added, till constitutional arrangements were made to give autonomy to Mizoram within the Indian Constitution.

After this, the Mizoram Legislative Assembly should be dissolved and elections be held in a free atmosphere. As an interim measure, the spokesman said, there should be a council of advisers to the governor headed by the MNF.

The MNF also wants, at a later stage, the reorganization of Mizoram state under Article 3 of the Constitution. The MNF leadership has asked for parts of Manipur with a Mizo population to be joined to the new state.

Reacting to the centre's statement that it wanted to get tough with MNF insurgents, the spokesman said his organization would welcome negotiations with the centre with or without a cease-fire; "getting tough" would only hamper the negotiations.

CPI-M PARLIAMENT MEMBER DIES 12 JAN

BK120955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Jyotirmay Basu, Communist Party of India-Marxist member of Parliament, expired in Jaipur this morning due to a massive heart attack. He was 58.

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL GROWTH RATE -- Minister of State for Industries Dr Charanjit Chanana has said that the industrial growth rate has gone up by 11 percent during the last 2 years. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jan 82 BK]

NEPAL

PRC COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES IN KATMANDU

BK091524 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] Minister of Communications of the People's Republic of China Peng Deqing arrived in Katmandu today on a week-long visit to Nepal. Peng, who is leading a nine-member Chinese Government economic delegation, was received at the Tribhuvan International Airport by Minister for Finance, Commerce and Supply Dr Yadav Prashad Pant and Assistant Minister for Works and Transport Moti Prashad Pahadi.

Holds Talks

BK101607 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] Minister for Communications of the People's Republic of China Peng Deqing called on Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in Katmandu today. Chinese envoy Ma Muming was also present on the occasion.

Chinese Minister for Communications Peng Deqing also called on Minister for Finance, Commerce and Supply Dr Yadav Prashad Pant in Katmandu today.

The economic delegations of Nepal and China today held the first round of talks for 90 minutes in Katmandu. Minister for Finance, Commerce and Supply Dr Yadav Prashad Pant led the Nepali side while the Chinese side was headed by Minister for Communications Peng Deqing. Assistant Minister for Works and Transport Moti Prashad Pahadi was also present at the talks.

According to the Finance Ministry, the talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Various aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries were reviewed at the talks. Both sides stressed the need to rebuild as soon as possible, with Chinese assistance, the flood-affected portion of the (Ahika) highway, including the Friendship Bridge that was washed away last summer.

The Nepali and Chinese delegations have expressed satisfaction at the talks and at the current economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

The next round of talks will be held on Wednesday [13 January].

Remarks on Cooperation

BK111513 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] Katmandu, 11 Jan (AFP) -- Nepalese Finance and Local Supplies Minister Dr Yadav Prashad Pant said today that Chinese economic cooperation was now very important in various vital sectors of the Nepalese economy.

Addressing an official dinner party held in honour of visiting Chinese Communications Minister Peng Deqing, Dr Pant said Chinese economic cooperation had helped to boost Nepal's industrialization process and to develop its infrastructure including roads, transport and the electricity.

"China has played a very substantial role in our endeavour for achieving all-round and balanced development of our country under the dynamic leadership of King Birendra," Dr Pant said, adding "our bilateral economic cooperation will gain further momentum in the coming year."

In his reply, Mr Peng praised the friendship between Nepal and China and said much useful work could be completed through the two countries' joint efforts. He also reiterated Chinese support for Katmandu's proposal to make Nepal a zone of peace.

CHINESE-BUILT HIGHWAY FORMALLY HANDED OVER

BK071523 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 7 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The 61-km-long Gurkha-Narayanghat highway was formally handed over by the Chinese side to his majesty's government today. The Narayanghat-(Mughli) portion of Gurkha-Narayanghat highway had already been completed and handed over to the Roads Department on 22 May 1981, and the handover today of (Bharani)-Gurkha portion comes in the wake of this completion. The handover letter was signed by the Chinese economic advisor of the Chinese Embassy, (Lei Shiwei), and the chief engineer of the Roads Department, (Shivabahadur Pradhan Nath).

BRIEFS

CHINESE-AIDED SUGAR MILL -- An agreement related to the details program of work for the construction of an integrated sugar will in Lumbini zone, west Nepal, was signed in Katmandu on 7 January between his majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China. The mill will have a crushing capacity of 1,000 tons of sugarcane per day and produce annually 10,000 metric tons of white granulated sugar. [Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 7 Jan 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE ON ELECTIONS NEW CAPITAL FEB 19

BK090753 Colombo SUN in English 5 Jan 82 p 1

[By Y.G. de Silva]

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene announced yesterday that he would be standing for reelection in 1984, and said he hoped the people would give him 6 more years in office.

The president also assured that the life of the present Parliament would not be extended and that general elections would be held in 1983.

The president said the UNP was against family bandys, because democracy would never function with it. That was because there were good men and bad men, good women and bad women in families.

The country, he said, was run by the people and not by anybody else. The people had the power to oust any inefficient administration.

The president was speaking at a meeting that followed the opening of the new shrineroom and Vibhishana Devale at Sri Sudarshanaramaya at Kalapaluwawa in the Kaduwela electorate yesterday.

The president said criticism was essential in a democratic society and it was welcomed by the government for its administration.

Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis in his speech said Sri Jayewardenepura would be declared the capital of Sri Lanka on February 19. The country would be ruled once again from Kotte.

The MP for Kaduwela, M.D.H. Jaywardene, in his speech said there had been an upliftment of the area since this government came to power.

GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE STAND AGAINST COMMUNISM

LD111748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Excerpts] In an interview with IRNA today, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the importance of unity as a positive and constructive factor for the progress and advancement of the community of mankind. He said that creating unity among the world's Muslims is one of the Foreign Ministry's most important strategic objectives.

He added: One should not imagine that we do not put a question mark over communism. If communism sanctions the Soviet action in Afghanistan, we will continue to not only not agree with such a way of thinking, but also to stand against it. In general, we condemn any form of aggression.

KHAMENE'I WELCOMES AL-QADHDHAFI CALL FOR UNITY

LD081516 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 8 Jan (JANA) -- Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i has welcomed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's call for unity between Libya, Syria and Algeria and considered it only a step towards a comprehensive Arab unity.

The president said in his statement to our correspondent in Tehran that the direct democratic rule in the Jamahiriyah enabled the people to rule themselves by themselves.

He added that "our revolution and government is very interested in your experiment in Libya for establishing a consultative society and people's authority."

He also expressed his country's willingness to strengthen her relation with the Jamahiriyah. He also expressed his country's support for the Libyan people's struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The Iranian president also condemned Reagan's hostile activities in the Arab region and attempt to gain control over the region's natural resources.

GOVERNMENT URGED TO EMULATE SYRIAN FOREIGN POLICY

TA082032 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 8 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "In Foreign Policy, Let Us Be in Harmony With the Member Countries of the Steadfastness Front"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The visit of Dr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs, to Syria, his talks with the officials of that country, the Islamic Republic of Iran's protest against the Israeli Zionists' occupationist and usurping measure in respect to the Golan Heights, and the invitation to Mr Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian president, to visit our country, are endored by our homeland's people as a step toward implementing a foreign policy conforming with the popular and anti-imperialist line of the revolution and the imam. The people of our liberated homeland heartily approve any measure and step taken by the Islamic government toward consolidating the ties of friendship and amity with the member countries of the steadfastness front against world imperialism and international Zionism. Naturally, placing our liberated homeland in the rank of the member states of the steadfastness front does not merely end with the declaration of this matter. Rather, it necessarily also places before the Islamic government the application of a course, policy and approach that will result in the consolidation and strengthening of this front.

Syria is an Islamic country and one of the member states of the steadfastness front, which is confronting the plots of imperialism led by world-devouring America and by the international Zionism of Israel, this illegitimate offspring of U.S. imperialism.

Syria, above all, like the rest of the member countries of this front, relies on the unselfish assistance of the Soviet Government and socialist countries, both from the economic and military viewpoints. Syria is an independent and revolutionary country, has independence of action in all its measures, and exerts its national sovereignty. No one can tell Syrian authorities, for example, that since in order to defend your country's independence and national sovereignty against Israeli aggression and the plots of world-devouring America you receive military assistance from the socialist country of the Soviet Union, or because you have good friendly relations with this country, therefore you have lost your independence. All are aware that through friendly relations with the Soviet Union, both Syria and the other member countries of the steadfastness front have defended and continue to defend their independence and national sovereignty against the plot of Zionist and imperialist aggression. This is an undeniable fact. Naturally, our liberated homeland, too, as one of the members of the steadfastness front, can in its foreign policy, by adopting a realistic approach and by establishing friendly relations with our neighboring and friendly northern country on the basis of respect for our country's national sovereignty and independence, strengthen its defensive and economic foundation against the joint plots of reaction and imperialism, headed by world-devouring America.

Raising the expression "the superpowers," which is the product of the sick mind of the Maoists and of imperialist and Maoist circles, to divert public opinion -- and which, unfortunately, is a habitual phrase of some of our country's officials too -- pursues only one aim: relieving world-devouring America from blows and placing the Iranian revolution's friends and enemies in the international arena at one pole and, most importantly, weakening certain governments that stand up to imperialism, this real foe of nations.

One must pay heed to depth of issues. One should confront state problems, whether in the arena of domestic or foreign policy, divorced from mental prejudice and outside the confines of the hostile and misleading propaganda of imperialist mass media and superficiality; the same way as all member countries of the steadfastness front, whether Syria, or Libya, Algeria and the PLO, too, have acted and continue to act.

As an example, let us consider the policy of these countries in respect to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which in fact is in the rank of the steadfastness front countries against imperialism and Zionism. Despite plentiful and hostile propaganda about Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and democratic Yemen have adopted an independent and friendly policy toward that country. So far no one has heard any word from any of the officials of the member countries of the steadfastness front, including Mr Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials, against democratic Afghanistan. These Islamic countries have good and friendly relations with the DRA, and naturally there is not and cannot be any place in these countries for the fugitive and murderous Afghan bands, these so-called Afghan mujahidin. Certainly, if in our country as well, mental prejudice, intimations of imperialist mass media and superficiality are put aside, and if our society's and the world's issues are confronted realistically and attention is paid to their true nature, our foreign policy will be free from fluctuations and ambiguities.

Our Islamic Republic regards itself as a member of the steadfastness front against imperialism and Zionism, and naturally it is appropriate that its policy, particularly in the international arena, be in harmony with the policy of the other members of this front.

REPORTED REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY LOANS DENIED

LD121152 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 12 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 12 Jan (IRNA) -- Hushang Azarmahd, economic deputy governor of the Central Bank, today categorically denied a report of the French news agency (AFP) from Tokyo that Iran had requested a loan from Japanese and West European banks and that the Japanese Government was not interested in continuing its barter trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Central Bank official, who was contacted by IRNA reporter following the recent AFP report, said that it was a false report, adding that to request for loan from any foreign country necessitates the approval of the Majlis.

"As the Islamic nation of Iran is aware," he said, "the subject of requesting for loan from a foreign country has not been discussed in the Majlis," the source said.

Speaking about the exchange of oil for other products, including chemical products, he said that basically foreign countries were interested in barter trade with Iran and that in their meetings with the Islamic Republic economic officials this issue had been brought up. Those countries expressed their interest in receiving crude oil in exchange for the goods Iran needed, but so far no measure had been taken in this respect, he said.

MUSAVI ON BATTLE AGAINST FOREIGN PROPAGANDA

LD090956 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The Economic Council held an extraordinary session yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Musavi in order to study the budgets of the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transport, Communications, Municipalities and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic. The session, also attended by experts from the Plan and Budget Organization, the ministries and relevant organizations, began with a recitation of verses from the glorious words of God [Koran].

During the review of the budget of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on behalf of that organization, read a brief report about its activities and referred to imperialist international news activities, particularly in this region, against the Islamic revolution, saying that 27 or so foreign radios are spreading their poison against our revolution.

He added that four new [Iranian] transmitters will soon begin work. Continuing his remarks, Mr Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the organization's training center, which was closed down, will reopen with 250 trainees on 21 January. The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran also has plans for expanding its domestic networks and those beyond the country's borders, whereby it would be able to disseminate the voice of the Islamic revolution of Iran throughout the world.

Then Prime Minister Musavi said: In my opinion, no matter how much we work in the field of propaganda we still find that we are falling short. The poison spread by foreign radios against our Islamic revolution is immense. Huge programs are broadcast to blacken the name of the Islamic Republic. Therefore, we should focus all our capabilities toward countering this vicious propaganda.

After the approval of the budget of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the budgets of the Ministries of Post, Telegraph and Telephones and Roads and Transport were also approved.

KHOMEYNI HEARS REPORT ON PRISON CONDITIONS

LD091214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly; Rabbani-Amlashi, the state prosecutor general; and Emami-Kashani, the Islamic Consultative Assembly deputy from Kashan, this morning separately met and conferred with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At his meeting with the leader of the revolution, the state prosecutor general submitted a report to the imam of the nation on the condition of prisons and his recent visit to the country's northern areas.

ARMS DISCOVERIES IN MASHHAD TO DATE REPORTED

GF111750 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] The Mashhad Islamic revolution prosecutor's office, quoting the office's disarmament committee, has informed Mashhad's Central News Unit that the committee members, in cooperation with the 36-million-strong intelligence organization, (?have to date confiscated) 83 mortar shells, 10 rocket launchers, 190 G-3 guns, 21 Brno guns, 7 (?handguns), 48 grenade launchers, 11 hunting rifles, 97 Colts, 29 grenades, 2 bazookas, 2 Kalashnikovs, 1 Soviet-made machinegun, 1,500 rounds of (?Uzi) ammunition, 12,147 M-1 cartridges, 213 rounds of 50-caliber bullets, 16 teargas canisters, 2 main unit transmitters, 10 gas masks and 15 helmets.

They have been put to use to benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

'LARGE' ARMS CACHE DISCOVERED IN MOUNTAINS

LD111912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Committee has issued the following statement: During the past few days, following searches carried out by the self-sacrificing Islamic Revolution Committee guards in the (Shemiranat) mountains, a large quantity of weapons and ammunition belonging to the minigroups was discovered and seized, including scores of G-3 rifles, Uzi automatic rifles, revolvers, grenades, bazooka shells and military equipment such as radios, binoculars and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Therefore, we draw the attention of the beloved citizens who go to the mountains to climb of the possibility that more military weapons and ammunition may be hidden in the mountains. Should they observe suspicious objects they should report the fact to the nearest military headquarters.

GUARDS ON RECENT 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' CLASHES

LD111734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Announcement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] As a result of the endeavors of the guards, the armed forces and the Muslim Kurdish peshmerga, the villages of (Oshtappeh), (Anbar), (Taerabao) and Nowcheh in the Bukan region were purged of illegal armed groups. A number of mercenaries from the defunct [Kurdish] Democratic Party were killed. A number of counterrevolutionaries who were members of that defunct party were arrested during these operations and some weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as some important organizational and war documents, were confiscated. Praise God, none of the forces of Islam was harmed during these operations.

Eight counterrevolutionaries were killed on the Mehrabad-Sar Dasht axis during a clash between the brother guards and Muslim Kurdish peshmerga on the one hand and the assailants who are dependent upon world oppression on the other. The forces of Islam seized one M-1 machinegun, one M-3 machinegun, one M-1 gun [as heard] and two revolvers.

RADIO IRAN CLAIMS PROPAGANDISTS ASSASSINATED

GF111531 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Text] Two of the regime's mercenaries in the radio and television organizations have been assassinated by Iranian combatants. Following the assassination of Khomeyni analyst Mas'ud Shaqaqi, Mehdi Jozi, another one of the regime's propagandists, was killed by an armed group.

The Islamic regime held a funeral for both mercenaries yesterday without announcing the assassination of Mehdi Jozi.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 757

LD111720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 82

[Communique 757 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The self-sacrificing braves of Islam, with spirits brimming with faith and relentless efforts on all battlefronts, have made a vow with their God, and are attacking the enemies of Islam bravely and courageously, so that their next news from God will be the victory of faith over blasphemy. We appreciate the efforts of our offspring and warriors and hail each and every one of these whole-hearted lovers of Islam and the Islamic homeland.

Yesterday, the combatants of the ground forces in the Sumar and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab sectors, brought enemy positions under heavy fire, destroying a number of bunkers and vehicles of the aggressors and inflicting casualties. In the (Zeleleh) and Shur-e Shirin sectors, exchanges of fire took place and the forces of Islam in these sectors dealt effective blows at the enemy. In the (Zir) and Konjancham sectors, enemy positions were brought under fire, resulting in the activities of the enemy artillery being halted.

During yesterday and today, the army of Saddam brought the residential areas of Abadan under heavy-artillery fire. A number of shops and houses were destroyed and a number of our compatriots were martyred and wounded.

In the Abadan and Khuninshahr operational sectors the combative personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed a number of enemy trenches and observation bunkers and killed or wounded nine Iraqi military personnel.

During the past 24 hours, a number of Iraqi aircraft violated the airspace of the operational sectors in the south of the country, but fled, thanks to the fire of our antiaircraft units.

During 9 January operations on the southern and western fronts, 78 of the seekers of the path of justice, all from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, joined eternity; may their spirits be happy and their mission eternal.

350 IRAQIS REPORTED KILLED IN 8-9 JAN FIGHTING

LD091736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] According to IRNA, 1 enemy vehicle column was smashed and 350 of the invading forces' troops were killed during the past 24 hours as a result of the ground forces' operations in Gilan-e Gharb, Siah Kuh, [name indistinct], Tappeh ('Alaru) and (Kuh Kach). Moreover, 18 vehicles and some enemy ammunition were destroyed on these same fronts. The report adds that 40 enemy troops were killed and 4 vehicles and 10 bunkers were destroyed on the Bazi Deraz, Konjancham, (Qaraviz) and Kur-e Mush fronts during the same period.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN

GF091650 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 9 Jan 82

[Text] According to an Afghan mujahidin spokesman, Afghan mujahidin -- during the second year of Soviet aggression against Afghanistan -- have captured Herat, the country's third-largest city. According to the spokesman, Herat fell after 4 days of fighting in which 70 Afghan soldiers were killed. The spokesman added that despite Soviet counterattacks supported by MiG's and the deaths of 60 noncombatants, Herat is still in the hands of the mujahidin.